



H.R. 3461 – Safeguarding America’s Families by Enhancing and Reorganizing New and Efficient Technologies Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3461 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Melissa Bean (D-IL) on August 4, 2007. The Committee on Energy and Commerce approved the bill, as amended, by voice vote on October 30, 2007.

H.R. 3461 is expected to be considered on the floor on November 13, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.R. 3461 requires the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to carryout a nationwide public awareness and education campaign regarding Internet safety. By coordinating with Federal, State, and local governments as well as nonprofit organizations, private technology and financial companies, Internet providers, and others, the FTC is to encourage Internet safety best practices, establish national outreach and education programs, and facilitate access to Internet safety information and education.

The FTC is required to submit an annual report detailing its efforts in these areas over the past year. The bill authorizes \$10 million for FY2008, which will remain available through FY2009, for the FTC to carryout the public awareness campaign.

The bill establishes the Online Safety and Technology Working Group to evaluate 1) industry efforts to promote online safety for children; 2) electronic communications and computing services providers efforts to crack down on child pornography and crimes against children; and 3) the development of technologies to shield children from inappropriate material on the Internet. The group must provide a report within 1 year of enactment of the bill.

BACKGROUND

Internet safety is a critical issue facing government, business, individuals, and parents. While the Internet contains vast amounts of intellectual, cultural, and entertaining information, it also opens a window for business fraud, identify theft, and numerous other criminal activities. Additionally, it leaves children vulnerable to exploitation and harm

by sex offenders. By being educated about the issue and utilizing appropriate safeguards, individuals and children can minimize the threat posed by online hackers and predators.

COST

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate for this legislation was not available at the time of this publication.

STAFF CONTACT

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